

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-18, the status of which is as follows:

- (a) Claims 8 and 15-16 are as originally filed.
- (b) Claims 7, 14, and 17-18 have been currently amended.
- (c) Claims 1-6 and 9-13 have been canceled without prejudice. The Applicant may prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,537,206 to Takada. Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '206 patent in view of US Patent 6,315,713 to Takada. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's grounds for rejection of these claims, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-6 and 9-13 in order to expedite the issuance of a patent on other claims found to recite allowable subject matter. The Applicant may prosecute these canceled claims in a continuation application.

Claims 7-8 and 14-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. The Applicant has therefore rewritten claim 7 in independent form including the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 5, and claim 14 in independent form including the features of base claim 1. Claim 8 depends from claim 7, and claims 15-18 depend from claim 14, so these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance, being of narrower scope than the allowable independent claims from which they depend.

Claims 7, 14, 17, and 18 have been amended to more precisely recite the elements thereof. These amendments are not being made in response to a rejection of these claims. No new matter has been added.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. As mentioned above, the Applicant has canceled claim 3.

The Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection and objection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully

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submits that all of the claims in the present application are now in order for allowance.

Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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